FD-302 (Rev. 4-15-64)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date April 30, 1968

JIMMIE DELTON GARNER, 107 - 14th Street, N.E., Atlanta, Georgia, was interviewed at his place of employment, The Vista Cafeteria, 1052 Northside Drive, N.W., Atlanta, Georgia.

At the outset of the interview, GARNER acknowledged that he had been on a prolonged "drunk" since about Friday, April 19, 1968, and was at the time of the interview in the throes of a "terrific hangover." GARNER explained that he has had a continual drinking problem for the past few years in that he has from time to time "gone on drinking sprees" for periods lasting several days in duration.

GARNER at this time acknowledged that he was previously on one of his "drunks" from a period beginning about March 22, 1968 through about March 30, 1968 which included the first week that the man known to him as ERIC S. GALT resided at the rooming house operated by GARNER at 113 - 14th Street, N.E., Atlanta, Georgia.

GARNER said that despite his being in the throes of a "hangover" resulting from his most recent drinking binge, he now felt able to again recount his recollections of his contacts with "GALT". GARNER provided the following information:

GARNER began drinking in his room at 107 - 14th Street about Friday, March 22, 1968. On Sunday afternoon, before darkness (exact time unknown but possibly between 3:00 and 4:00 p.m.) the man whom he later knew as ERIC S. GALT appeared at GARNER's door. GARNER said he now believes the door to his room was open, and that he (GARNER) was sitting in a chair in his room in a drunken condition. GARNER recalls that "GALT" inquired regarding obtaining a single room. At the time the rooming house at 113 - 14th Street, N.E. had been closed for sometime possibly three or four weeks. This rooming house had been closed because it had become "infested with 'hippies'" and the

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by SAs JOHN E. OGDEN and O. RICHARD HAMILTON JEO: hjm Date dictated 4/30/68

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only way he could get them to move from the rooming house was to close it up. When "GALT" asked for a single room, there was no single room available in the rooming house at 107 - 14th Street, N.E. so he decided to put "GALT" in the rooming house at 113 - 14th Street, N.E. Accordingly, "GALT" was the first roomer in this rooming house for several weeks.

GARNER now recalls that "GALT" produced a partly consumed quart or fifth size bottle of vodka. This bottle was square in shape but the brand name could not be recalled. He believes he may have had a drink with "GALT" in his (GARNER's) room at 107 - 14th Street, N.E. after which he accompanied "GALT" to the rooming house next door where he showed "GALT" room number 2. When "GALT" stated that the room was quite small, GARNER opened the door connecting with room number 4 which is utilized normally as a storage room and which has no windows. GARNER told "GALT" he could use the connecting room and at this time there was some mention made that "GALT" would put his television set on the desk in room number 4 as well as other articles belonging to "GALT". GARNER recalls that the connecting door is equipped with a hasp and padlock and that he (GARNER) upon unlocking and opening this door, replaced the padlock, (unlocked) on the hasp. GARNER said he did not see the television or other items belonging to "GALT" at this time and has no clear recollection of ever seeing any of "GALT's" possession prior to "GALT's" departure from this address.

GARNER also recalls that "GALT" left the partly consumed bottle of vodka with GARNER and that after showing "GALT" to his room, GARNER returned to 107 - 14th Street, N.E. where he continued to drink.

He said the vodka bottle was undoubtedly thrown away in the trash.

GARNER states that he is unable to recall any of the conversations he may have had with "GALT." When specifically asked whether "GALT" had stated how he happened to pick this particular rooming house; where he had come from; whether he had made inquiries about places to eat, laundry and drycleaning facilities or service to his automobile, GARNER said he cannot recall any conversation concerning these or similar matters.

He reiterated that his contact with "GALT" on this occasion is very hazy because of his intoxicated condition.

At this point, GARNER stated that information previously provided to Agents concerning having obtained "GALT's" name at the time of initial contact was probably erroneous because he now recalls that he did not have "GALT" write his name at this time but that this was done a week later on March 31, 1968, when "GALT" paid GARNER for a second week's rent in advance.

GARNER said that he continued his drinking activities on through the week of March 24, 1968 and did not begin to sober up until the following weekend. He cannot clearly recall any of his actions during this week but has a hazy recollection of going to "GALT's" room at 113 - 14th Street, N.E. about Tuesday night and of again having some drinks with "GALT" in this room. He states that he cannot recall any of the conversations with "GALT" at this time and he does not recall observing any of the items that might have been in room number 2. He does not recall why he happened to go to the room but suspected that he may have been "checking the building" and just dropped in to visit with "GALT" when he discovered he was in the room. He believes this was Tuesday night, March 26, 1968, but is not sure of this.

GARNER also stated that sometime during the first week possibly on Wednesday, he recalls walking across the street from his residence to Postal Sub Station C for the purpose of buying some envelopes. He said that he was still in a drunken condition but hazily recalls encountering a young man approximately 20 years of age in front of the Post Office who addressed GARNER by name. This unknown individual asked GARNER a question to the effect "Who was the man I saw you with last night in the white Mustang?" GARNER said this suggested to him that he had possibly gone with "GALT" somewhere in "GALT's" automobile while he (GARNER) was dead drunk but although he has tried to recall such an incident, he cannot recall ever being in "GALT's" car. GARNER was specifically questioned at this point as to whether he has any friends or acquaintances residing in the vicinity of Highland View Street, Ponce de Leon Terrace and Barnett Street, N.E. GARNER said that he did not know anyone in that neighborhood and cannot recall having visited that neighborhood on any occasion in the recent past.

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Several efforts were made to encourage GARNER to recall additional information concerning the unknown man who questioned him concerning being in the white Mustang, but he repeatedly stated that he just does not know this person but that it is possibly someone who has been a patron at one of the restaurants which GARNER has operated in the past.

GARNER recalls no further contact with "GALT" until Sunday, March 31, 1968. At this time GARNER had "begun to sober up" and went to the rooming house at 113 - 14th Street, N.E. to check the rooms. He said he does this frequently to be sure that the "hippies" have not again invaded these premises. On this occasion, he encountered "GALT" in the hall. At this time, "GALT" said "he might as well pay him for another week." GARNER said that he did not enter "GALT's" room at this time but picked up an envelope which was lying on the table in the hall and it was at this time he had "GALT" print his name thereon with the view of transferring the name to his permanent records when GARNER returned to his own room. GARNER said he knows he was paid in cash but does not recall the denomination of the bills or any further conversation with "GALT" at this time.

GARNER said that he remained in a sober condition from March 31 until the beginning of his most recent drinking spree on April 19, 1968. He is, accordingly, sure that he did not see "GALT" again after he was paid on Sunday, March 31, 1968. He said he may have seen "GALT's" automobile parked in the rear of 113 - 14th Street, N.E. at various times during the week, but could not be positive and does not recall any specific dates. He noted that he does not recall ever seeing "GALT's" car parked in the parking lot behind the rooming house when GARNER returned from his restaurant to 14th Street about 4:00 p.m. He said that when and if he saw the car, it is his best recollection that it would have been during the early morning hours when he left to go to the restaurant or possibly late in the evening. He stated he retains the impression that "GALT" left the rooming house sometime in the morning and would not return until quite late in the evening. He conceded that it is possible that the car may have been absent from the rooming house for periods of two or three days while "GALT" was a tenant there.

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GARNER related that on Friday, April 5, 1968, he went to his restaurant at 1052 Northside Drive, N.W. about 5:30 in the morning. He remained at that restaurant until about 10:00 a.m. at which time he returned to the rooming houses on 14th Street for the purpose of getting the linen ready to be picked up by an employee of the Atlanta Linen Company which performs the laundry services for GARNER. GARNER stated that when help is available, he usually takes one of the female employees from the restaurant when he goes to the rooming houses on Friday to change the linen. He recalled, however, that on Friday, April 5, 1968, he was "short of help" at the restaurant and, accordingly, went alone to get the linen. He believes he could have arrived at the rooming house between 10:00 and 10:30 a.m. at which time the driver for the Atlanta Linen Company was waiting for him. GARNER said he went to all of the occupied rooms and took the linen from the beds. Upon entering room number 2 at 113 - 14th Street, N.E., he observed that the bed was made up but from the appearance of the bed it looked as though someone had been lying on top of the spread. He found on top of the bed a note possibly written on a piece of cardboard of the type placed in shirts by the laundry. This note was apparently from "GALT" and although he cannot recall the exact wording, stated something to the effect that "GALT" had to go to Birmingham and would return in about a week to pick up his television and/or property. GARNER said he tossed the note in the waste can in the room and obtained the linen from the bed which he turned over to the employee of the Atlanta Linen Company.

While in the room, he observed that the door connecting room number 2 and the adjacent storage room had been locked but he did not enter the room at this time to determine what property had been left there by "GALT". Sometime later, he did enter the room and noted that a television set was in the room along with miscellaneous items which he cannot specifically recall that were lying on the desk in the room.

GARNER said that he has not received any word or communication from "GALT" concerning the property left there. He cannot recall seeing "GALT" talk to any of the other roomers at either of the rooming houses and knows nothing concerning any of "GALT's" activities while he resided at this address. He is certain that "GALT" did not mention having been referred to this rooming house by anyone and feels that he would have recalled this even though he was in an intoxicated condition during a great portion of the time "GALT" resided there.